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Application No. 10/026,108

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A package for applying surgical staple reinforcement material to arms of a surgical stapler comprising:
an application card;
staple reinforcement material having a first portion adapted to be attached to the arms of the surgical stapler, a second portion adapted to be attached to the application card, and tear lines separating the first portion and the second portion;
an adhesive to attach the first portion of staple reinforcement material to the stapler arms;
[[and]]

wherein the tear lines on the staple reinforcement material allow the first portion of staple reinforcement material to be separated laterally from the second portion once the adhesive attaches the first portion of the staple reinforcement material to the arms of the surgical stapler;
and

wherein the application card includes a notch therein to assist in aligning the stapler arms with the staple reinforcement material.

2. (Original) The package of claim 1 wherein
the application card includes a landing; and
wherein the second portion of the staple reinforcement material is attached to application card so as to position the first portion within the landing.

3. (Currently amended) The package of claim 2 wherein the landing further comprises:
a first layer having an aperture;
[[a]] the staple reinforcement material having a first surface and a second opposing surface;
the first surface of the staple reinforcement material exposed within the aperture;
and
the second opposing surface of the staple reinforcement material in contact with a support layer.

4. (Currently amended) The package of claim 3 wherein the staple reinforcement material is attached to the first layer.

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5. (Currently amended) The package of claim 3 wherein the staple reinforcement material is attached to the support layer.

6. (Currently amended) The package of claim 1 further comprising:
a support layer; and
the staple reinforcement material attached to the support layer.

7. (Currently amended) The package of claim 1 wherein the second portion of staple reinforcement material being adhered directly to the application card.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The package of claim 1 wherein the application card comprises at least two portions that are joined together.

10. (Original) The package of claim 9 wherein the two portions of the application card are attached together through interlocking posts.

11. (Currently amended) The package of claim 10 wherein the staple reinforcement material is at least partially held in place on the application card through cut-outs aligned with the interlocking posts.

12. (Original) A kit comprising
the package of claim 1; and
a separate resilient material.

13. (Original) The kit of claim 12 wherein the resilient material comprises a foam.

Claims 14 – 16 (Cancelled).

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17. (New) A package for applying surgical staple reinforcement material to arms of a surgical stapler comprising:

an application card;

staple reinforcement material having a first portion adapted to be attached to the arms of the surgical stapler, a second portion adapted to be attached to the application card, and tear lines separating the first portion and the second portion;

an adhesive to attach the first portion of staple reinforcement material to the stapler arms;

wherein the tear lines on the staple reinforcement material allow the first portion of staple reinforcement material to be separated laterally from the second portion once the adhesive attaches the first portion of the staple reinforcement material to the arms of the surgical stapler;

wherein the application card comprises at least two portions that are joined together; and

wherein the two portions of the application card are attached together through interlocking posts.

18. (New) The package of claim 17 wherein the staple reinforcement material is at least partially held in place on the application card through cut-outs aligned with the interlocking posts.

19. (New) A kit for applying surgical staple reinforcement material to arms of a surgical stapler comprising:

a package comprising an application card; staple reinforcement material having a first portion adapted to be attached to the arms of the surgical stapler, a second portion adapted to be attached to the application card, and tear lines separating the first portion and the second portion; an adhesive to attach the first portion of staple reinforcement material to the stapler arms; and wherein the tear lines on the staple reinforcement material allow the first portion of staple reinforcement material to be separated laterally from the second portion once the adhesive attaches the first portion of the staple reinforcement material to the arms of the surgical stapler; and

a separate resilient material comprising a foam.

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20. (New) A package for applying surgical staple reinforcement material to arms of a surgical stapler comprising:

- an application card;

- staple reinforcement material having a first portion adapted to be attached to the arms of the surgical stapler, a second portion adapted to be attached to the application card, and tear lines separating the first portion and the second portion;

- an adhesive to attach the first portion of staple reinforcement material to the stapler arms;

- wherein the tear lines on the staple reinforcement material allow the first portion of staple reinforcement material to be separated laterally from the second portion once the adhesive attaches the first portion of the staple reinforcement material to the arms of the surgical stapler;

- wherein the application card includes a landing;

- wherein the second portion of the staple reinforcement material is attached to application card so as to position the first portion within the landing; and

- wherein the landing further comprises

- a first layer having an aperture;

- the staple reinforcement material having a first surface and a second opposing surface;

- the first surface of staple reinforcement material exposed within the aperture; and

- the second opposing surface of the staple reinforcement material in contact with a support layer.

21. (New) The package of claim 20 wherein the staple reinforcement material is attached to the first layer.

22. (New) The package of claim 21 wherein the staple reinforcement material is attached to the support layer.